

Annual Report

**On the Health of the
Borough of Newport,
Isle of Wight,
for the year 1945**

BY

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Medical Officer of Health.

**PRESENTED TO THE CORPORATION
THROUGH THEIR COMMITTEE,
SEPTEMBER, 1946.**

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ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE
HEALTH OF THE URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY
OF
NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT.

COUNTY HALL,
HIGH STREET,
NEWPORT, I.W.
July, 1946.

*To the Urban Sanitary Authority, the Town Council of
the Borough of Newport, Isle of Wight.*

MR. MAYOR, LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on Health of the Borough for the year 1945.

The birth rate was down by 2·9 per 1000 of the population, but the death rate was also lower by 1·9 per 1000 compared with 1944. The infantile mortality rate is gratifyingly low and the number of notifiable infectious diseases was below the average.

There is no matter of special importance to which I wish to draw your attention except the great need for a large and progressive housing programme.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. S. WALLACE,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	15,530
Population (Registrar General's Figures)	...					18,170
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1945) per						
rate books	...	...	...	...	...	4,987
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£132,425
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...				...	£530/13/8

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Birth rate per 1000 of the estimated resident
population 17·3

Still Birth—Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births 36·7

Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population 12·5

Death from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and
childbirth :—

Rate per 1000 total (live and still births) ... Nil.

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All infants per 1000 live births 31·7

Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births 35·6

Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live
births Nil.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 35

Deaths from Measles (all ages) Nil.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) 1

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) 1

BIRTHS.

The total number of live births was 315 of which 281 were legitimate and 34 illegitimate. The live birth rate was 17·3 per 1000 living ; the birth rate for England and Wales being 16·1.

DEATHS.

The total number of deaths was 227 which gives a death rate of 12·5 per 1000 of the estimated resident population, the death rate for England and Wales being 11·4.

INFANT MORTALITY.

The Infantile Mortality rate was 31·7 per 1000 registered live births ; the rate for England and Wales generally was 46·0.

WATER SUPPLIES.

In spite of the fact that during the years 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944 and 1945 the annual rainfall has been below the average for the last 60 years no interruption of the water supply was experienced in 1945. This was mainly due to the steady supply of water obtained from the new bore holes in the orchard at Carisbrooke. So that although economy in the use of water by the public was still necessary, it was found unnecessary to cut off the supply at night during the summer.

The water from all four sources is chlorinated and monthly samples of the treated water showed no evidence whatsoever of harmful pollution. Samples of the various raw waters were taken quarterly and the results showed that the waters from the Idlecombe well and the well in the waterworks yard at Carisbrooke were particularly pure. The water from the new borings in the orchard at first were found to contain *Coli Aerogenes* of surface soil type but later samples have shown a complete absence of any pollution.

Raw water from the Bowcombe well on two occasions showed evidence of surface soil types of Coli Aerogenes bacteria. As this has happened on other occasions in previous years, chlorine is added to this water in the proportion of 0·3 parts per million.

SWIMMING POOL.

The water from the outdoor swimming pool belonging to the Council was kept under constant observation and numerous tests were made to find out if chlorination was adequate. Samples for bacteriological analysis showed no evidence of harmful pollution.

HOUSING.

Only 61 houses were inspected under the Housing and Public Health Acts and of these 53 were found unfit.

Three statutory notices were issued under the above Acts, the necessary work in one case being carried out by the Corporation at the owner's expense.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

A large proportion of the animals slaughtered in the whole Island are killed at the Government controlled slaughter houses in the Borough and this has added greatly to the work of the Meat and Food Inspector.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	<i>Beasts</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number inspected ...	1682	6511	4497	2628
All diseases except T.B. whole carcasses condemned ...	4	6	5	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	322	13	421	32
Percentage of number inspected affected with diseases other than T.B. ...	19·4	0·3	9·4	1·3
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcasses con- demned ...	61	—	1	12
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned. ...	548	—	—	88
Percentage of number inspected affected with T.B. ...	36·2	—	0·02	3·8
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>
Total meat condemned	26	16	3	12
Other Foodstuffs ...	1	19	2	18
Total ...	28	16	2	2

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The total number of notifications of infectious diseases, 53, was considerably less than in 1944 (266).

Scarlet Fever accounted for only 17 and Measles for 24. There were four notifications of Diphtheria, two children and two adults. None of these persons was immunised against the disease.

Immunisation against Diphtheria continued throughout the year. Every effort is made to persuade parents to take advantage of this universally acknowledged protective measure against one of the most killing diseases of childhood. All children at the age of one are offered protection and a further "boosting" dose is offered on entry into the infants' schools.

Of the children under 5, 41.1% are immunised and of children of school age, 89.2% are immunised.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES OCCURRING IN SCHOOLS

Mumps	...	...	...	6
Chicken Pox	...	...	...	10
German Measles	...	...	...	3
Scabies	...	...	...	1
Ringworm	...	...	...	2
Impetigo	...	...	...	5
Influenza	...	...	...	6
Influenzal colds	...	...	...	9
Jaundice	...	...	...	15
				57

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis)

DURING THE YEAR 1945.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox ...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	17	8	—
Diphtheria ...	4	4	—
Enteric Fever (including Para- typhoid) ...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	2	—
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	—	—	—
Other diseases gen- erally notifiable			
<i>Erysipelas</i> ...	3	—	—
<i>Encephalitis</i> <i>Lethargica</i> ...	—	—	—
<i>Cerebro Spinal</i> <i>Meningitis</i> ...	1	1	—
Whooping Cough	2	—	1*
Measles ...	24	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—
TOTALS	53	15	1

*This case was not notified.

AGE AT DATE OF NOTIFICATION.

Age.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Pneumonia.	Erysipelas.	Enteric Fever.	Dysentery.	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Poliomyelitis.	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.	Whooping Cough.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Measles.
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
1 and under 2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
2 " " 3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
3 " " 4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
4 " " 5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
5 " " 10	7	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	8
10 " " 15	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
15 " " 20	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 " " 35	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 " " 45	2	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 " " 65	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	17	4	2	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	24

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

CASES.			Vision un- impaired.	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness.	Death.
Notified.	Treated.					
	At home	In hospital				
Nil.	—	—	Nil.	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS, 1945.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.					DEATHS.				
	Totals	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Totals	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.
0 and under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 " 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 " 10	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 " 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 " 20	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 " 25	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 " 35	5	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 " 45	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 " 55	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 " 65	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	1
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Totals	15*	9	3	3	—	3†	2	—	—	1

*Included in this total are two patients who have been transferred from the mainland.

†Includes one case which died from another disease.

